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AF/2823

PATENT *Depose*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Fazan et al.  
Appl. No. : 09/037,945  
Filed : March 10, 1998  
For : STREAMLINED FIELD ISOLATION PROCESS  
Examiner : George Fourson

) Group Art Unit 2823

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
ATTENTION BOX: AF

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed November 21, 2000, in which Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17, all the claims remaining in this application, were finally rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner has now maintained the same rejections of each of the pending claims in a series of Office Actions dated May 13, 1999; January 12, 2000; June 6, 2000; and November 21, 2000. The Examiner's objections and reasoning have remained unchanged in spite of Applicants' amendments to the claims contained in the October 13, 1999, Amendment; and claim modifications contained in an Amendment After Final dated March 13, 2000, which were resubmitted in a Preliminary Amendment mailed April 17, 2000.

The Examiner's primary reference through all aforementioned communications has been a document identified as German patent DD 266,885 (the German '885 patent) used alone to reject Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, 16 and 17; or in combination with secondary references to reject